

Appl. No. 09/920,208
Amdt. dated May 28, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 3, 2004

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for alerting a user at a terminal location of an incoming phone call, the method comprising steps of:

receiving a criterion manually entered by the user before the incoming phone call is placed;

receiving notification of the incoming phone call with an identifier associated with the incoming phone call;

detecting the identifier associated with the incoming phone call;

correlating the identifier with a pre-recorded voice announcement using the criterion; and

playing the pre-recorded voice announcement at the terminal location.

2. (Currently Amended) The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of receiving the pre-recorded voice announcement for ~~each~~ the incoming phone call, wherein the pre-recorded voice announcement is received from a point geographically separate from the terminal location.

3. (Original) The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of correlating the identifier comprises at least one of the following steps:

correlating a phone number with a pre-recorded voice announcement;

correlating a portion of the phone number with a pre-recorded voice announcement; and

correlating a caller ID name with a pre-recorded voice announcement.

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4. (Currently Amended) The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of:

recording the pre-recorded voice announcement; ~~and~~
~~receiving a selection that helps correlate the pre-recorded voice~~
~~announcement to the identifier.~~

5. (Original) The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as recited in claim 4, further comprising a step of storing the pre-recorded voice announcement with consumer phone equipment.

6. (Original) The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of interrupting a phone call to play the pre-recorded voice announcement.

7. (Original) The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as recited in claim 1, wherein the playing step comprises playing the pre-recorded voice announcement with an earpiece.

8. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as recited in claim 1.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for alerting a user of an incoming phone call, the method comprising steps of:

recording a voice announcement to create a pre-recorded voice announcement;
receiving a selection that helps correlate the pre-recorded voice announcement to an identifier, wherein the selection is manually entered by the user prior to the incoming phone call;

receiving notification of the incoming phone call that indicates the identifier associated with the incoming phone call;

detecting the identifier associated with the incoming phone call;

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correlating the identifier with a the pre-recorded voice announcement using the selection; and
playing the pre-recorded voice announcement.

10. (Currently Amended) The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as recited in claim 9, further comprising a step of receiving the pre-recorded voice announcement for the incoming each phone call from a first location across a wide area network from a second location of the user.

11. (Currently Amended) The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as recited in claim 9, wherein the step of correlating the identifier comprises at least one of the following steps:

correlating a phone number with a the pre-recorded voice announcement;
correlating a portion of the phone number with a the pre-recorded voice announcement; and
correlating a caller ID name with a the pre-recorded voice announcement.

12. (Currently Amended) The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as recited in claim 9, further comprising a step of storing the pre-recorded voice announcement with consumer phone equipment.

13. (Currently Amended) The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as recited in claim 9, further comprising a step of interrupting a phone call to play the pre-recorded voice announcement.

14. (Currently Amended) The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as recited in claim 9, wherein the playing step comprises playing the pre-recorded voice announcement with a speaker separate from an earpiece.

15. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as recited in claim 9.

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16. (Currently Amended) Telephone equipment for announcing phone calls with a pre-recorded voice announcement stored in an announcement storage database, the telephone equipment comprising:

a sound digitizer that converts a sound to the pre-recorded voice announcement;
a caller ID function that detects an identifier associated with an incoming phone call;

a correlator that associates the identifier with the pre-recorded voice announcement; and

a speaker that plays the pre-recorded voice announcement after the pre-recorded voice announcement is correlated to the identifier, wherein the announcement storage database is remotely located from the telephone equipment.

17. (Canceled) Please cancel claim 17 without disclaimer of or prejudice to the subject matter contained therein.

18. (Canceled) Please cancel claim 18 without disclaimer of or prejudice to the subject matter contained therein.

19. (Original) The telephone equipment for announcing phone calls with a pre-recorded voice announcement as recited in claim 16, further comprising a web interface for receiving at least one of a criterion and a voice announcement.

20. (Currently Amended) The telephone equipment for announcing phone calls with a pre-recorded voice announcement as recited in claim 16, wherein an earpiece comprises the speaker.